

**Beyond High School:
Exploring College and University
Options for Students with Disabilities**

Many parents of students with disabilities seek assurance that their children can do college work. Given a nurturing, supportive environment, abilities can be tapped and students can experience a meaningful education after high school.

A common characteristic of the following individuals is that they all had a disability that limited them in some way but did not stop them from continuing their education or their pursuit of a dream:

- Olympic runner, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, asthmatic;
- TV writer, producer and actor, Stephen Cannell, dyslexic;
- Former Vice-President of the United States, Nelson Rockefeller, dyslexic;
- Journalist, Mike Wallace, mood disorder;
- Miss America, 1995, Heather Whitestone, hearing impaired;
- Major league pitcher, Jim Abbott (one-handed);
- Former Assistant Secretary of Education, Judith Heumann, polio survivor;
- Professional baseball player, Jim Eisenreich, Tourette’s Syndrome; and
- Academy Award winner, Marlee Matlin, hearing impaired.

Accommodations for students with disabilities who attend college

According to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, universities and colleges that accept federal funds must provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The key factor in determining whether a person is considered as having a disability is whether the physical or mental impairment results

in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities: caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act defines a qualified individual with disabilities, for post-secondary programs, as "...a person with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite for admission to, or participation in, the college's education program or activity." With accommodations, many individuals with disabilities are able to meet the challenges of higher education.

The information on the back of this brochure lists some of the accommodations that may be made for students with disabilities at universities and colleges. An institution may require detailed documentation of a student's disability before providing requested academic adjustments or auxiliary aids. The requested documentation may include the results of medical reports, psychoeducational tests administered in the last three years, or other professional evaluations. It’s the student’s responsibility to submit the required documentation in a timely manner.

Adapted college entrance exams

Students with disabilities may request accommodations in testing format or equipment to compensate for their disability. Documentation must be current and address functional limitations or impairments in learning. Some of the adaptations that may be requested in the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Testing (ACT) are: extended time, audio cassette edition with regular-type copy, and a reader or a person to record answers. Tests are administered several times during the school year. The accommodations or adaptations in the testing procedures or environment must be requested well in advance of the anticipated test date. The testing organization can provide more information. American College Testing (ACT)

ACT Special Testing
P.O. Box 4028
Iowa City, IA 52243-4028
319-337-1332; 319-337-1701 (TDD)

Extended-Time Testing
P.O. Box 4068
Iowa City, IA 52243-4068
319-337-1851; 319-337-1701 (TDD)
www.act.org

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
Services for Students with Disabilities
P.O. Box 6226
Princeton, NJ 08541-6226
609-771-7137; 609-882-4118 (TTY)
www.collegeboard.com

References

HEATH Resource Center. (2001). *College freshmen with disabilities*. Washington, DC: Author.

HEATH Resource Center. (2005). *Creating options: Financial aid for students with disabilities*. Washington, DC: Author.

U.S. Department of Education. *The civil rights of students with hidden disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. Washington, DC.

Resources

ACT Staff. (2004). *The real ACT prep guide: The only official prep guide from the makers of the ACT*. NY: Princeton Review.

Pine, P. (2005). *Master the New SAT*. New York: Macmillan.

Getzel, E.E. and Wehman, P.H. (2005). *Going to college: Expanding opportunities for people with disabilities*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing.

Organizations

American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Ste. 300, New York, NY 10001, 212-502-7600 or 800-232-5463, www.afb.org

American Speech - Language - Hearing Association, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 800-638-8255, www.asha.org

Brain Injury Association, 8201 Greensboro Dr., Ste. 611, McLean, VA 22102, 800-444-6443, www.biausa.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America, 4156 Library Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234, 412-341-1515, www.lidaamerica.org

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Colonial Place Three, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 300, Arlington, VA 22201, 703-524-7600, www.nami.org

United Cerebral Palsy Association
1802 W. Parkside, Phoenix, AZ 85027, 602-943-5472, 888-943-5472, www.ucpofaz.org
3941 E. 29th St., Ste. 603, Tucson, AZ 85711, 520-795-3108, www.ucpsa.org

Needed Accommodations

The Arizona colleges and universities, listed on the reverse side, may be contacted regarding accommodations needed by students with disabilities. The school may request documentation of a student's disability before providing academic adjustments or auxiliary aids. Most of the colleges and universities offer services to students who have disabilities such as:

- ADD/ADHD
- blindness/low vision
- deafness/hearing impairments

- learning disabilities
- physical disabilities
- psychological disabilities
- chronic medical conditions
- temporary impairments
- traumatic brain injury

Some of the services, offered on an individualized basis, and which vary from campus to campus, are:

- academic advisement and planning
- campus adaptive transportation
- assistive technology
- campus orientation
- career and personal counseling
- mobility training
- needs assessment
- registration assistance
- sign-language interpreting
- test-taking accommodations
- tutoring
- volunteer note-taking
- vocational rehabilitation (RSA) liaison

Arizona Western College, Yuma
Services for Students with Disabilities
928-344-7629, www.azwestern.edu

Central Arizona College, Coolidge
Special Needs Services
520-426-4409, www.cac.cc.az.us

Cochise College, Special Needs Assistance
Douglas, 520-364-7943
Includes the Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca campuses and the centers at Willcox, Benson, and Nogales, www.cochise.edu

Coconino College, Flagstaff
Student Support Services & Disabilities Resources
928-226-4323, www.coconino.edu

Diné College, Tsaile
928-724-6736, www.dinecollege.edu

Eastern Arizona College, Counseling, Thatcher
800-678-3808, 928-428-8253, www.eac.edu

Gila Community College, Disabilities Counselor,
Globe, 928-425-8481, www.gilaccc.org

Maricopa County Community College District, Tempe
Disability Resources and Services
480-732-7050, www.maricopa.edu
Includes Chandler/Gilbert, Estrella Mt., Gateway,
Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix College,
Rio Salado, Scottsdale, and South Mountain
Community Colleges, and the Maricopa and
Southwest Skill Centers.

Mohave Community College, Disability Services
928-757-4331, www.mohave.edu
Includes the Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead,
and North Mohave Center campuses.

Northland Pioneer College, Holbrook
Disability Resources and Access Office
928-532-6178, 928-537-2030 TDD, 800-266-7845
TDD only, www.npc.edu
Includes Eagar, Heber, Holbrook, Kayenta, Polacca,
St. Johns, Show Low, Snowflake/Taylor, Whiteriver,
and Winslow.

Pima Community College, Tucson
Disabled Student Resources
520-206-7286, www.pima.edu
Includes the Community, Desert Vista, Downtown,
East, West and Northwest campuses, the Northeast
Community Learning Center, and the Center for
Training and Development.

Yavapai College, Prescott
Learning Center
928-776-2079, www.yc.edu
Includes Camp Verde, Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott
Valley, Sedona, and Verde Valley campuses.

State Universities

Arizona State University, Tempe
Disability Resource Center for Academic Access
and Achievement
480-965-1234, www.asu.edu/drc

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Disability Support Services
928-523-8773, 928-523-6906 TTY
www2.nau.edu/dss/services

University of Arizona, Tucson
Disability Resource Center
Tucson, AZ 85721-0064
520-621-3268, drc.arizona.edu

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